

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-45 remain active in this case, independent Claims 1, 11, 16, 24, 29 and 31-35 having been amended by the present amendment and Claim 2 having been previously canceled.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, 8, 16, 21, 29, 31, 33, 35-36, 38, 40-41, 43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,560, hereinafter "Nakajima"); Claims 2, 9-10, 17, 22-23 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,640,462, hereinafter "Sato"); Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Rougee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,446, hereinafter "Rougee"); Claims 5-7 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,047,080, hereinafter "Chen"); Claims 11, 24, 32, 34, 37, 39, 42 and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Slack (U.S. Patent No. 6,487,432); and Claims 12-15 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Slack and in further view of Sato.

In light of the outstanding grounds for rejection, the independent claims have been amended to clarify the claimed invention, thereby to more clearly patentably define over the cited prior art. To that end, the independent claims have been amended to clarify that the plurality of images are acquired in different projection directions, for example, while a C-arm is being rotated around an object, positions of corresponding areas in each projection direction are estimated and transformed, with at least several of the transformed images then

being sequentially displayed at display positions thereof adjusted such that an operator is free from moving an eyepoint to observe the transformed images.

In contrast, Nakajima discloses a technique of displaying two-dimensional images acquired only in one projection direction, and is irrelevant to the technique, as employed in the present invention, of acquiring images in various projection directions, and sequentially displaying transformed with their positions adjusted. Accordingly, Nakajima neither discloses nor suggests the object of the present invention or the structure for achieving the object. As these deficiencies are not believed to be remedied by the other cited references, it is respectfully submitted that the outstanding grounds for rejection have been overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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